

## R E M A R K S

Claims 1-9 currently remain in the application. None of the claims is herein amended.

Regarding the matter of drawings pointed out in Paragraph 4 of the Official Letter, a set of formal drawings incorporating corrections on Fig. 4 is submitted herewith. The correction comprises changing "S11", "S12", "S13", "S14" and "S15" in Fig. 4 respectively to --ST11--, --ST12--, --ST13--, --ST14-- and --ST15--, as indicated in red on the photocopy of the originally submitted drawing sheet including Fig. 4. It is believed that this correction is pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.121(d) and hence successfully obviates the Examiner's objection.

Claims 1-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by Otani. Rejection of a claim under 35 U.S.C. 102 is justified only when each of the inventive elements in that claim is disclosed in one reference. Otani does not disclose every inventive element in independent claims of the instant application, and hence it is believed that the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-9 is not justified and hence should be reversed.

Explained more in detail, the invention of the present application relates to the so-called "online-edit" of a program, that is, the function of changing the user program while the control unit is kept in operation. The PLC undergoes cyclic operations of I/O refresh, user program execution and peripheral service process (as stated, for example, in lines 2-3 of claim 1). It goes without saying that program replacement cannot be effected while the PLC is undergoing the user program execution but the online-edit can be effected during the execution of the peripheral service process. The present invention is based on this presumption and relates to the manner in which the memory is used for the purpose of this online-edit as shown in Fig. 7. The rejected claims are sufficiently narrowly limited by this manner of using the memory as explained with reference to Fig. 7.


By contrast, Otani does not relate to the online-edit. Otani relates instead to a method of making the user program in the form of a library and then storing it in a flash memory. In other words, the details of the method of using a memory are completely different and Otani does not even pretend to use a memory in the way disclosed in the present application and limited by the claims as presented in the present application.

Some minor editorial errors in the specification have been corrected and hence it is believed that the present Amendment is totally responsive to the Office Action and that the

application is now in condition for allowance.

Please note that applicant takes this opportunity to submit herewith copies of Japanese patent applications as priority documents.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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